

IV. PARK AND RECREATION DEMAND AND TRENDS

ANNUAL VISITATION TRENDS

As shown in Figure IV-1, annual visitation recorded at Eno River State Park has increased from 136,967 in 1987 to 319,393 in 2001. The visitation on a year-to-year basis has been somewhat unpredictable, but the overall trend shows an increase in park use from 1987 to 2002 at a compounded annual rate of 5.81 percent.

Visitation is taken using vehicle traffic counters. Prior to 1994, a multiplier of four persons per vehicle was used. In 1994, vehicle counters were added at the Pleasant Green Access and Cabe Lands to go with those already in place at Few's Ford and Cole Mill. At the time the additional two vehicle counters were added, the persons-per-vehicle multiplier was lowered to 3.5 to more accurately reflect the average visitor group size.

In addition to recorded visitation, many park visitors are able to visit and enjoy the park from neighborhood accesses and other entry points without being counted. While this has always been true, increased unrecorded visitation has no doubt occurred over the years as the area around the park has become more developed. The park is easily accessed by foot from many locations along the river.

MONTHLY VISITATION TRENDS

Monthly visitation at Eno River follows a pattern similar to many state park units (Figure IV-2). In the winter, cold weather keeps the visitation down, and with warmer weather, visitation increases. Visitation is highest in April when, with its array of spring flowers and new growth, the river is perhaps most attractive. Visitation remains high throughout the spring and summer and well into fall. Because of its proximity to urban development and the small number of camping facilities, visitation never drops as severely in the winter months as it does in most state parks.

Because Eno River's monthly visitation is high from March through October, the use of seasonal personnel to meet peak demand is less effective than at many parks where the peak visitation season is shorter and much higher relative to other times of the year. Even so, this monthly visitation pattern suggests that permanent staff need to be available to serve visitors during the months of higher visitation. Where possible, work and vacation scheduling should be undertaken with this in mind. Part-time and seasonal personnel should continue to be used in the busier March-through-October period as well.

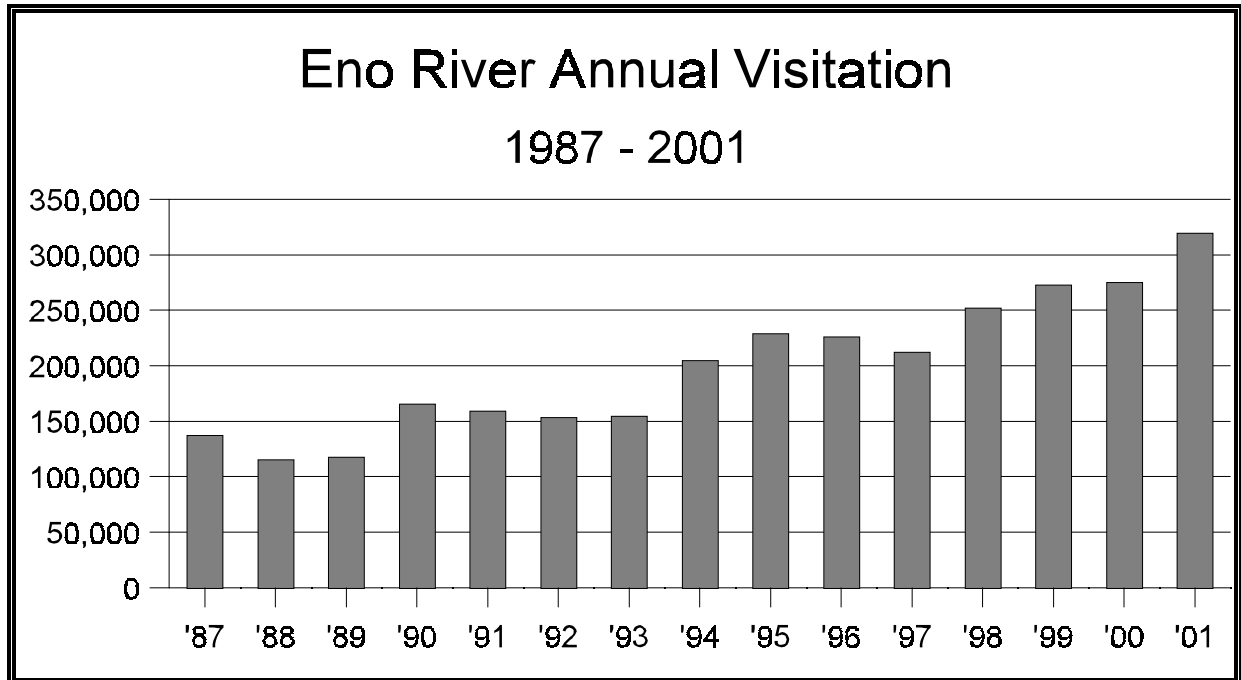


Figure IV-1. Annual Visitation

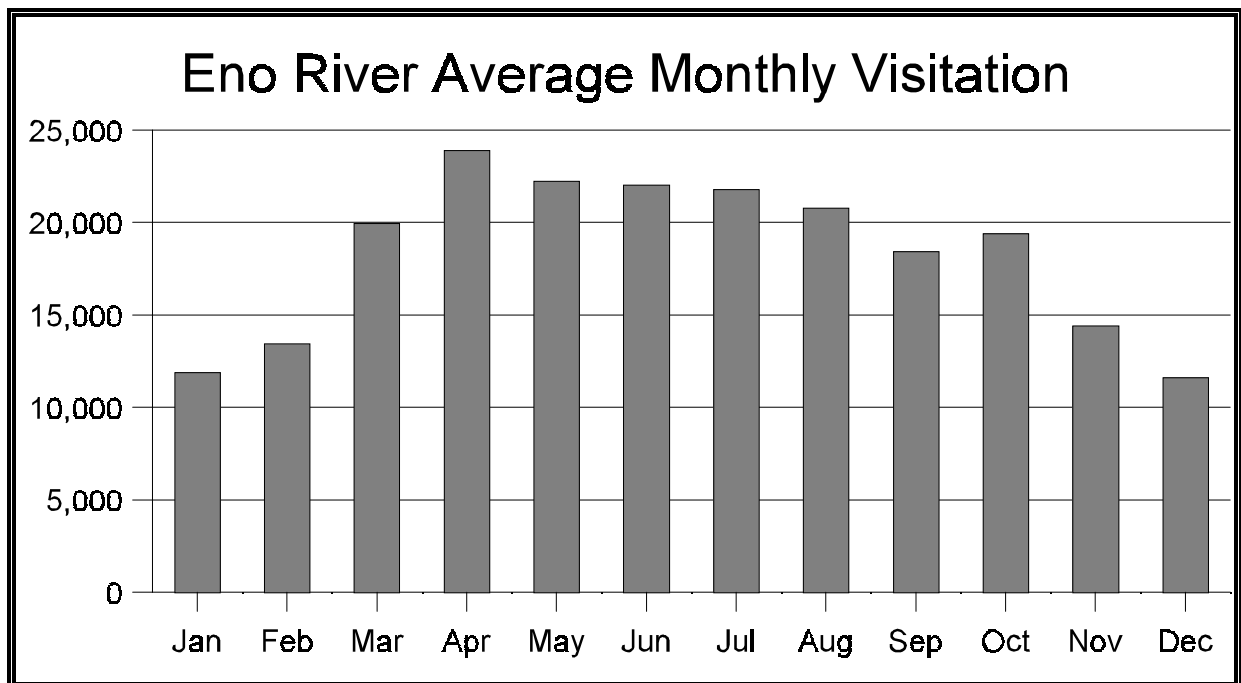


Figure 3

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The primary service area for Eno River State Park includes Durham and Orange counties, where the park is located, and surrounding counties. Eno River is located in the Research Triangle region, an area anchored by world-class universities, medical centers, state government, and firms in leading technological and medical fields. Its diverse economy has proven more stable than most economies in other regions of the state and nation during the past twenty years. The region's combination of economic vitality, educational opportunity, mild climate, and general quality of life caused it to be lauded as "The Best Place to Live in America" by *Money* magazine in 1994. *Fortune* magazine called nearby Raleigh "The Best City for Business" in 1993.

Unlike many metropolitan areas, the Research Triangle region is not dependent upon one central city. Raleigh and Durham are the largest Research Triangle cities. Many smaller towns and numerous rural communities comprise the large regional community. In 1990, over 145,000 residents crossed a county line to get to work, reflecting a sense of larger regional community. This sense of regional community is enhanced by the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, the Research Triangle Park in Durham and Wake counties, and by Jordan Lake and Falls Lake — the area's large recreation and water-supply lakes, which extend across several counties.

Service is the leading industry sector in the area, accounting for over 29 percent of jobs. Raleigh is the state capital, so government employment is a higher-than-usual 25 percent. Trade is also 25 percent of employment, while manufacturing accounts for 19 percent.

The area's economic success is reflected in incomes. The estimated 1995 median family income in the Research Triangle region is \$34,563. The metro area's estimated 1995 median family income of \$46,800 surpasses the next highest North Carolina metro area —Charlotte —by \$4,100 or 12 percent.

The many resources and advantages of living in the Research Triangle region have resulted in robust population growth, a trend that is expected to continue. Table IV-1 shows the population growth and projected growth from 1980 through 2010 for Durham, Orange, and surrounding counties. As the area's population grows, Eno River State Park will face increasing pressure from development and public use.

From 1980 to 2000, the area's rapidly growing population increased at a compounded annual rate of 2.68 percent. The annual rate of growth is expected to slow from the year 2000 to 2010 to approximately 2.41 percent annually. Although slower, this rate of growth is still considered rapid, however, and it will result in 332,162 more persons living in Alamance, Chatham, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, and Wake counties in 2010 than 2000.

Table IV-1. Eno River Area Population Growth & Projected Growth 1980 - 2010*

COUNTY	1980	1990	2000	2010
Alamance	99,319	108,213	130,800	152,758
Chatham	33,415	38,759	49,329	59,336
Durham	152,235	181,835	223,314	267,218
Granville	34,043	38,345	48,498	58,532
Orange	77,055	93,851	118,227	142,913
Person	29,164	30,180	35,623	40,678
Wake	301,429	423,380	627,846	844,364
TOTAL:	726,660	914,563	1,233,637	1,565,799

* Source: U. S. Census, North Carolina State Demographics

Because of the economy and general attractiveness of the region as a place to live, in-migration has played a significant role in the area's population growth. Table IV-2 shows migration into the Eno River area from 1980-1990. In-migration accounted for 71.77 percent of the area's population growth during this period and has been the chief source of population growth for all of the counties in the area except for Person County. This trend is expected to continue, but at a slower rate.

Table IV-2. Migration into the Eno River Area 1980 - 1990*

County	1980 Population	1990 Population	Population Increase 1980-1990	Births	Deaths	Net In-migration	% Pop. Increase Due to In-Migration
Alamance	99,319	108,213	8,894	13,039	9,691	5,546	62.36%
Chatham	33,415	38,759	5,344	5,180	3,180	3,344	62.57%
Durham	152,235	181,835	29,600	24,183	13,771	19,188	64.82%
Granville	34,043	38,345	4,302	4,762	3,672	3,212	74.66%
Orange	77,055	93,851	16,796	10,019	4,848	11,625	69.21%
Person	29,164	30,180	1,016	3,825	2,749	(60)	-5.91%
Wake	301,429	423,380	121,951	51,198	21,256	92,009	75.45%
Area	726,660	914,563	187,903	112,206	59,167	134,864	71.77%

* Source: U.S. Census

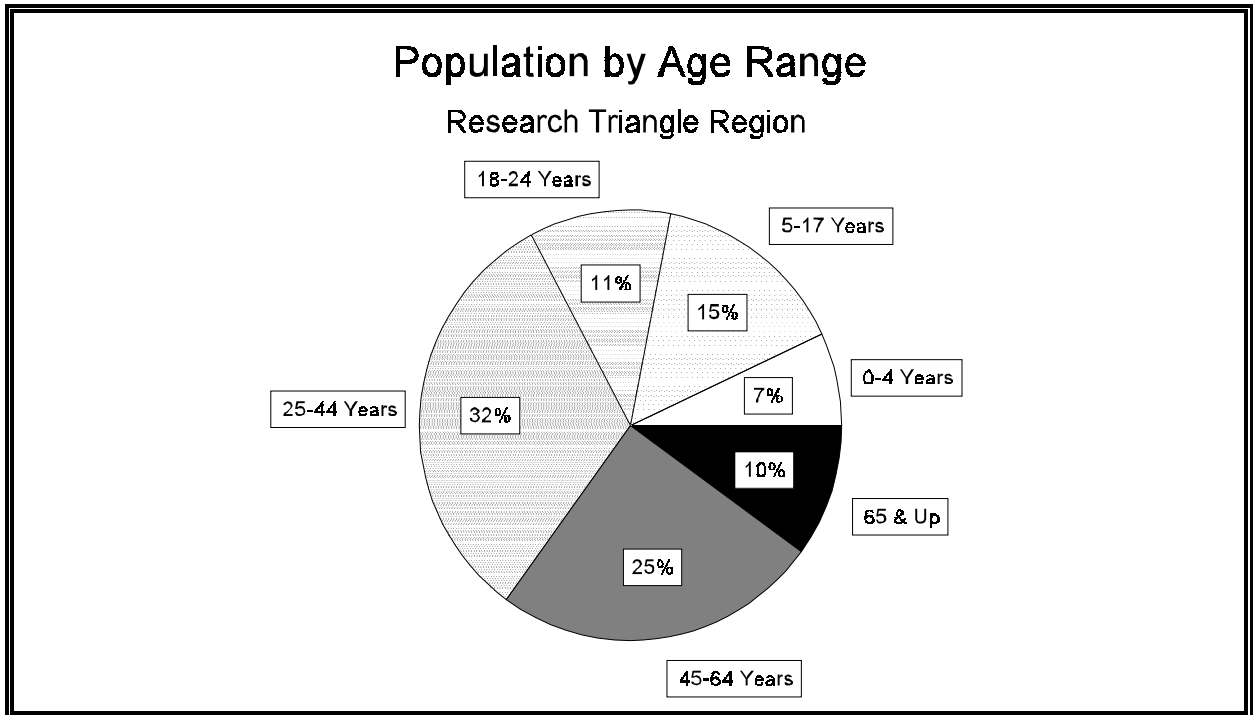


Figure IV-3. Population by Age Range

Source: 1990 US Census

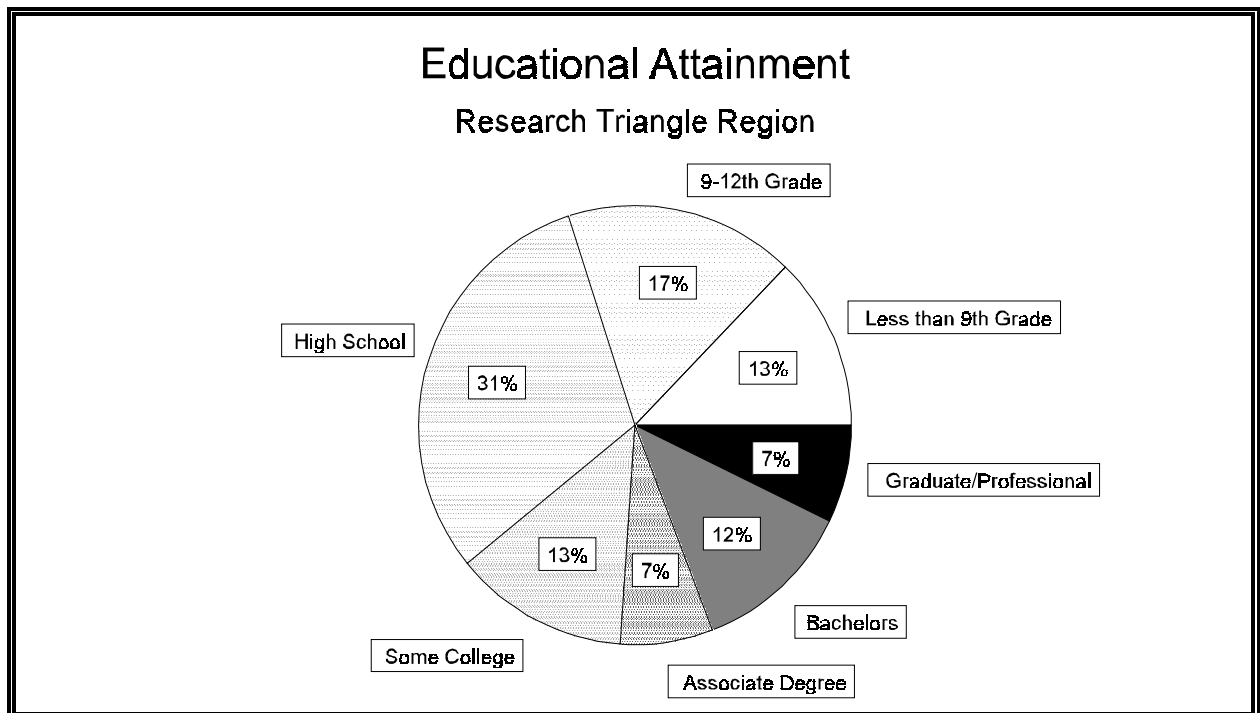


Figure IV-4. Educational Attainment

Source: 1990 US Census (Age 25 and Older)

The Research Triangle region has a relatively diverse, young, and highly educated population (Figures IV-3 and IV-4). Highly educated people tend to participate more frequently in outdoor recreation. Twenty-seven percent of the population 25 or older in 1990 had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 12 of every 1,000 adults 25 or older had a Ph.D. The area has three major research universities — Duke, UNC at Chapel Hill, and N.C. State University — and nine other colleges and universities with enrollments of almost 79,000.

According to the Office of State Budget and Management, outside of catastrophic events such as a depression or outbreak of a rapidly spreading, incapacitating disease, the most influential forces affecting the need for state services are the growth and shifts in population. As the region's population grows, more demand can be anticipated for outdoor recreation areas and facilities simply because there will be more people seeking recreational opportunities. Without an increase in recreational areas and facilities, existing ones can be expected to become increasingly crowded. In addition, as the population grows, concomitant development removes forests, farms, and other open areas that help meet outdoor recreation needs.

Population shifts are also taking place. These shifts will not be so sudden that they will require modification of the five-year plans for Eno River or other parks, but they are worth noting for their longer-term implications.

Surprising most demographers, the portion of Americans and North Carolinians age 65 and older failed to increase during the 1990s, the first time since the Census Bureau began its count that the seniors' share of the population fell nationally. The percentage of elderly in North Carolina dropped from 12.1% in 1990 to 12% in 2000. Over the next ten years, the 65-and-over ranks will likely expand no faster than the rest of the population, a result primarily due to declining births that accompanied the Great Depression in the 1930s.

With the leading edge of the post-war baby-boom generation reaching 55, the median age in North Carolina rose from 33.1 in 1990 to 35.3 years in 2000. In the next decade, as the oldest baby-boomers hit 65, the median age will continue to rise, heralding a rapid jump in the elderly population.

Between 2010 and 2020, the number of citizens 65 and older is projected to increase by 35 percent. The 2000 census numbers hint at the future, showing that the fastest gain of any age group occurred in the 45-to-54-year-old segment, up 50 percent in North Carolina during the 1990s. Although not in the immediate future, this population shift, when it occurs, will produce a flood of retirements.

The Census 2000 report also showed a big increase in the number of seniors living past age 85. The number of Americans age 85 and older grew 38 percent during the 1990s. With improved medical care, drug discoveries and technological innovations, this age group is projected to continue increasing.

In the future, longer lives are more likely to be healthy. Even with millions more people reaching retirement age, the number of people in nursing homes declined nationwide during the 1990s, according to surveys by the Duke Center for Demographic Studies. The Center also found that Medicare recipients are much less likely to be disabled than 20 years ago.

Eno River and other state park units are expected to see increased visitation by the elderly as these trends emerge. The elderly already are and will become an increasingly vital political force. While parks have and are likely to continue to have a much lower concern for the elderly than health care, nursing homes, activities of daily living and protective services, the amount of attention paid to parks and the expectations for services catering to the elderly will be increasing.

The character of society is changing in other ways as well. Traditional families – married couples with children younger than 18 – fell during the 1990s to 22.6 percent of all households statewide from 25.2 percent. Households headed by women alone make up an increasing percentage of all families with children younger than 18. Female-headed households with children younger than 18 rose from 20.2 percent of all North Carolina family households in 1990 to 22.8 percent in 2000. (The numbers reflect only family households, not all households.)

The number and percentage of Hispanic population increased dramatically in North Carolina in the 1990s, rising from 1.2 percent in 1990 to 4.7 percent in 2000. Communication problems between park staff and non-English speaking visitors occur from time-to-time and have increased as the Hispanic population has grown.

Concomitant with population growth and a prosperous economy, large amounts of land are being developed across the state, particularly in metropolitan areas. Between 1992 and 1997, 781,500 acres of land were developed statewide, roughly 156,000 acres annually. Moreover, the pace of development has increased. From 1982 to 1992, an average of 93,580 acres per year was developed. (*Adding It Up: Growth Trends and Policies In North Carolina*. Brookings Institution. July, 2000)

As North Carolina develops, the struggle to balance economic and population growth with the preservation of the state's natural heritage increases. State parks such as Eno River will become increasingly important as contributors to a healthy quality of life for the state's citizens and visitors.

VISITOR INFORMATION

In 1987 the United States Forest Service was contracted by the Department to conduct a Public Area Recreation Visitors Survey (PARVS) for the North Carolina state parks system, designed to identify visitor socio-economic characteristics and economic contribution to the state's economy. While Eno River State Park was not one of the eight parks involved in the survey, general information concerning state park visitors is useful in assessing visitation trends at the park.

Why do people visit state park units? The convenient location was cited by 31 percent of the respondents; 25 percent thought other areas were too crowded; 21 percent liked the quality facilities; 8 percent wanted to try a new area; 7 percent enjoyed the scenic beauty; and 6 percent came to see the attraction.

More than one third of state park visitors come from within a 30-mile radius (37 percent), while 17 percent come from 30 to 60 miles away. Survey respondents indicated that the parks were their sole destination 86 percent of the time. While many visitors come from nearby, the average one-way distance traveled was 139 miles. Approximately 25 percent of state park visitors come from out of state. These visitors averaged 4.1 trips per year to North Carolina state parks.

Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed indicated that they were return visitors. The average number of return trips per year was six. Sixty-one percent of visitors statewide came with family members, 16 percent with friends, and 7 percent with both family and friends. Ten percent of visitors came alone. Visitors also came in small numbers in organized groups and multiple families.

PARVS data indicates that 16.8 percent of groups surveyed used more than one car, and that the average number of persons per car was 3.0. The average age of the park visitor was 38.2 years. The age distribution was as follows:

Table IV-3 Percent of Visitors by Age Group

<u>Under 6</u>	<u>6-12</u>	<u>13-18</u>	<u>19-25</u>	<u>26-35</u>	<u>36-45</u>	<u>46-55</u>	<u>56-65</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
6.7	11.6	10.6	12.5	20.1	16.9	0.9	7.3	4.4

Since over 18 percent of visitors are under the age of 13, a demand exists for children's programs and facilities. Approximately 12 percent of visitors are 56 and older. This older segment of the general population will be increasing, and as it does, demand for improved quality, accessibility, and safety should increase.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

The five most popular outdoor recreation activities in North Carolina are walking for pleasure, driving for pleasure, viewing scenery, participating in beach activities, and visiting historical sites. Three out of every four households participated in walking for pleasure at least once in the past 12 months (Table IV-4). In addition to the five most popular activities, over fifty percent of the households responding to a 1989 survey participated at least once in the following activities: swimming (in lakes, rivers, or oceans), visiting natural areas, picnicking, attending sports events, visiting zoos, and freshwater fishing.

The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey was mailed to 3,100 randomly selected residents in the spring of 1989. Forty-five percent, or 1,399 people, returned completed surveys. Each person receiving the survey was asked to estimate the number of times that household members had participated in each of 43 activities. The survey results provide good insight into the current participation of North Carolinians in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities. The survey results also closely mirror those of the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment conducted in 1994-1995.

Table IV-4. Outdoor Recreation Activities Ranked by Popularity.

RANK	ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING
1.	Walking for Pleasure	75%
2.	Driving for Pleasure	72
3.	Viewing Scenery	71
4.	Beach Activities	69
5.	Visiting Historical Sites	62
6.	Swimming (in Lakes, Rivers, and Oceans)	54
7.	Visiting Natural Areas	53
8.	Picnicking	52
9.	Attending Sports Events	52
10.	Visiting Zoos	51
11.	Fishing - Freshwater	50
12.	Use of Open Areas	41
13.	Swimming (in Pools)	40
14.	Fishing - Saltwater	38
15.	Attending Outdoor Cultural Events	35
16.	Bicycling for Pleasure	32
17.	Other Winter Sports	31
18.	Camping, Tent or Vehicle	29
19.	Softball and Baseball	28
20.	Hunting	28
21.	Use of Play Equipment	28
22.	Power Boating	26
23.	Trail Hiking	26
24.	Jogging or Running	24
25.	Basketball	24
26.	Nature Study	22
27.	Golf	22
28.	Target Shooting	20
29.	Water Skiing	19
30.	Camping, Primitive	14
31.	Tennis	14
32.	Use Motorcycles, Dirt Bikes, ATV' s	13
33.	Use Four Wheel Drive Vehicles	13
34.	Canoeing and Kayaking	13
35.	Horseback Riding	12
36.	Volleyball	12
37.	Downhill Skiing	12
38.	Football	11
39.	Soccer	7
40.	Sailboating	7
41.	Skateboarding	6
42.	Cross Country Skiing	2
43.	Windsurfing	1

PRIORITIES OF PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION FUNDING

The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey asked residents a series of questions in order to identify and rank order future demand for various types of public outdoor recreation activities. Future demand was determined by asking them which activities they would have tried more often had adequate facilities been available. Respondents were then asked to rank these activities in order of importance. A scoring system was used assigning each activity a rating of high, moderate or low future demand based on the survey results.

In the second part of the analysis, the respondents' level of support for publicly funded outdoor recreation activities was determined by asking them to identify and rank those activities to which government should give highest priority when spending public money. The same scoring system used to analyze unmet demand was then applied to the survey results, with each activity receiving a high, moderate or low rating in public support for public funding.

In the final part of the needs analysis, the two ratings for each activity were combined to produce a score from one to nine that reflected both future demand and public funding priorities. The activities that ranked high in both future demand and support for public funding received the highest priority in the needs assessment. Support for public funding was given higher priority than expressed demand (Table IV-5).

Table IV-5. Priorities for Future Outdoor Recreation Activities

ACTIVITY	CODE	FUTURE DEMAND	SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC FUNDING
Walking for Pleasure	1	High	High
Camping, Tent or Vehicle	1	High	High
Picnicking	1	High	High
Beach Activities	1	High	High
Fishing - Freshwater	1	High	High
Attend Outdoor Cultural Events	1	High	High
Visiting Natural Areas	2	Moderate	High
Use of Play Equipment	2	Moderate	High
Visiting Zoos	2	Moderate	High
Visiting Historical Sites	2	Moderate	High
Bicycling for Pleasure	3	High	Moderate
Swimming (in Pools)	3	High	Moderate
Viewing Scenery	4	Moderate	Moderate
Hunting	4	Moderate	Moderate
Trail Hiking	4	Moderate	Moderate
Use of Open Areas	4	Moderate	Moderate
Target Shooting	4	Moderate	Moderate
Swimming (Lakes, Rivers, Ocean)	4	Moderate	Moderate
Fishing - Saltwater	4	Moderate	Moderate

AREA OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Eno River area and surrounding counties are home to a variety of outdoor recreation areas. A brief description of some of these follows.

West Point on the Eno (Durham County)

West Point on the Eno is a 350-acre park operated by the city of Durham. Located off Roxboro Road, the park is a re-creation of the 19th century West Point Mill community. In addition to tours of a historic farmhouse, a working grist mill, and the museum of turn-of-the-century photographer Hugh Mangum, visitors can picnic, hike, raft and canoe. The city of Durham also operates many other parks.

Sarah P. Duke Memorial Gardens (Durham County)

The extensive gardens and a native plant area are located on the grounds of Duke University.

Duke Homestead State Historic Site (Durham County)

The historic site includes the homestead itself, a tobacco museum, farm buildings, historical exhibits, and a video presentation of the history of tobacco.

Bennett Place State Historic Site (Durham County)

This historic site marks the place of the largest troop surrender of the Civil War. On April 26, 1865, Generals Joseph E. Johnston and William Sherman met in a small farmhouse here for negotiations that led to the capitulation of Johnston's troops. The visitor center offers a multi-media show and historical exhibits.

Duke Forest (Durham & Orange Counties)

Duke Forest is Duke University's privately owned research forest consisting of 8,300 acres in Durham and Orange counties. In addition to educational use, the forest also provides recreational opportunities.

Falls Lake (Wake & Durham Counties)

Falls Lake is a 12,490-acre recreational flood-control and water-supply lake. The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation operates Falls Lake State Recreation Area. The public-use sites on the lake offer boat launching, camping, hiking, picnicking, swimming, and fishing. There is also a marina operated by a concessionaire. The Corps of Engineers and N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission also operate facilities at the lake.

Game Lands (Chatham, Durham, Wake, & Lee Counties)

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission operates game lands within the region. These include the 986-acre Chatham Game Land, the 40,626-acre New Hope Game Land at Jordan Lake, the 2,421-acre Lee Game Land, the 7,790-acre Shearon Harris Game Land, the 7,109-acre Person Game Land, the 841-acre Vance Game Land, and the 43,554-acre Butner-Falls of the Neuse Game Lands.

N.C. Botanical Gardens (Orange County)

This 307-acre botanical garden contains the largest collection of native plants and herbs in the Southeast. Located in Chapel Hill, it offers nature trails, walking tours, classes, plant sales, and a reference library.

William B. Umstead State Park (Wake County)

This 5,481-acre state park has forests and plant communities typical of the Piedmont Province of North Carolina. It also has excellent natural species diversity, containing over 800 plant species, 60 species of reptiles and amphibians, over 185 bird species, and over 20 mammal species. It offers an extensive trail system, three small lakes, nonmotorized boating, individual and group camping, picnicking, and fishing.

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area (Chatham County)

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation operates nine major sites at the 13,900-acre Jordan lake. The lake is a major statewide recreational resource. A variety of recreational facilities encourage use of the lake and provide opportunities for fishing, swimming, sunbathing, motor boating, waterskiing, wind surfing, sailing, picnicking, hiking, and natural and cultural resource interpretation. Tent and trailer, group, primitive, and recreational-vehicle camping offer a variety of overnight recreational opportunities. A privately operated marina is also available at the lake.

Jordan Lake Educational State Forest (Chatham County)

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources operates the 420-acre educational state forest. Recreation facilities include two miles of trail and a picnic shelter and picnic area.

Harris Lake (Wake and Chatham Counties)

Harris Lake, a 4,150-acre lake in Chatham County that was constructed to provide cooling water for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, is owned by Carolina Power and Light Company. It is also used for recreational purposes.

Clemmons State Forest (Johnston & Wake Counties)

This 314-acre educational state forest demonstrates the many uses of woodlands — wildlife protection, timber products, education, and recreation. It offers group tent camping, hiking, picnicking, and forestry and nature study.

Alamance Battleground (Alamance County)

The 40-acre Alamance Battleground State Historic Site offers interpretation of the 1771 battle between back county farmers called the ‘Regulators’ and the Colonial militia of Royal Governor Tryon. A monument, historical markers, the home of one of the Regulators, and a visitor center/museum are at the site.

Haw River (Chatham and Alamance County)

The Haw River is the most popular canoeing river in the Piedmont because of its white water. There are miles of Class 2 rapids and, occasionally, more difficult rapids. The sections of the river through Chatham County to Jordan Lake are particularly popular. Each spring, the Haw River Festival is held at three locations along the river. It includes music, food, arts & crafts, and environmental exhibits.

Raven Rock State Park (Harnett County)

Raven Rock State Park, near Lillington, consists of over 3,000 acres of park land and is noted for its striking rock formation, extensive forest, unique plant life, and rolling terrain. The park offers camping, bridle trails, canoe camping along the Cape Fear River, picnicking, fishing, hiking, and nature study.

Mayo Lake and Hyco Reservoir (Person and Caswell Counties)

The 3,750-acre Hyco Lake and the 2,800-acre Mayo Lake are located just south of the Virginia state line. The popular reservoir/recreation areas were built by Carolina Power and Light company. They offer hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and water sports.

Kerr Lake State Recreation Area (Vance County)

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation operates seven recreation areas at the 49,000-acre lake. Over 1,000 camping sites, picnicking, fishing, swimming, and other water sports are offered. Two marinas offer services for boaters and campers, including cabins.

Other Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

The region's county and municipal governments offer a variety of outdoor recreational areas and facilities. These include smaller lakes that offer recreational activities, such as Lake Michie and Little River Reservoir in Durham County; Cane Creek Reservoir and University Lake in Orange County; and lakes Crabtree, Wheeler, Johnson, and Benson in Wake County.